

What is claimed is:

1. A mail exchange system comprising:

a plurality of terminal devices connected to one another via a communications network, each terminal device having a member information storage that stores member information of members who belong to a group that exchanges mail via said communications network, the plurality of the terminal devices comprising a specific member terminal, an existing member terminal, and a newly joining member terminal; said specific member terminal includes:

a participation mail receiver that receives a participation mail, including member information of a member who newly joins the group, from said newly joining member terminal via said communications network;

a first member information adder that extracts the member information included in the participation mail received by said participation mail receiver and stores the extracted member information in the member information storage; and

a new member information mail transmitter that transmits a new member mail, including the member information of the newly joining member, to said existing member terminal according to information stored in said member information storage via said communications network,

said existing member terminal including:

a new member information mail receiver that receives the new member mail;

a second member information adder that extracts the member information included in the received new member mail and stores the extracted member information in a member list in the member information storage; and

a self-information mail transmitter that transmits an existing member mail, including self-member information, to said newly joining member terminal via said communications network, and

said newly joining member terminal including:

a new participation mail transmitter that transmits the new member mail, including self-member information of the newly joining member, to said specific member terminal via said communications network;

5 an existing member information mail receiver that receives the existing member mail; and

a member information generator that generates a member list stored in the member information storage based on the received existing member mail.

2. The mail exchange system according to claim 1, wherein each of said terminal
10 devices further comprises:

a withdrawal mail transmitter that transmits withdrawal mail, including information of withdrawal from the group, to said terminal devices of all members in a member list stored in said member information storage;

a withdrawal mail receiver that receives the withdrawal mail, including the
15 information of a withdrawing member, transmitted from said withdrawal mail transmitter of the terminal device of a withdrawing member; and

a member information deleter that deletes the member information of the withdrawing member from the member list in the mail member information storage.

3. The mail exchange system according to claim 1, wherein said specific
20 member terminal further includes an invitation mail transmitter that transmits invite mail, including information for inviting participation in the group and self-member information, to said newly joining member terminal via said communications network;

wherein said newly joining member terminal further includes an invitation mail receiver that receives the invite mail; and

25 wherein said member information generator further generates the list in the member information storage based on the received invite mail.

4. The mail exchange system according to claim 1, wherein said specific

member terminal further includes a second self-information mail transmitter that transmits specific member mail, including self-member information, to said newly joining member terminal in response to the participation mail received by said participation mail receiver;

5 wherein said newly joining member terminal further includes a specific member information mail receiver that receives the specific member mail, including the self-member information of the specific member; and

 wherein said member information generator generates the member list stored in the member information storage based on the specific member mail received by said
10 specific member information mail receiver.

5. The mail exchange system according to claim 1, wherein group information indicating the group exchanging the mail is added to the mail to be exchanged among said terminal devices of the members who belong to the group; and

 wherein the member list in the member information storage stores member
15 information of members, who belong to the group.

6. The mail exchange system according to claim 5, wherein user information that uniquely specifies each user is allocated to each of said terminal devices; and

 wherein the group information includes user information of the terminal device of a member who forms the group, and a time when said group is formed.

20 7. The mail exchange system according to claim 1, wherein each of the terminal devices includes a cellular phone.

8. A mail exchange terminal device for exchanging mail with other mail exchange terminal devices via a communications network, comprising:

 a member information storage that stores member information of a member, who
25 belongs to a group exchanging mail;

 a mail receiver that receives new member mail, including member information of a member who newly joins the group, from another mail exchange terminal device via

said communications network;

a member information adder that extracts the member information included in the received new member mail and stores the extracted member information in a member list stored in the member information storage; and

5 a mail transmitter that transmits contact mail, including self-member information to said mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member via said communications network.

9. The mail exchange terminal device according to claim 8, wherein the received new member mail is transmitted from said mail exchange terminal device of a specific member, who already belongs to the group, to terminals of other members according to the list stored in the member information storage.

10. A mail exchange terminal device for exchanging mail with other mail exchange terminal devices via a communications network, comprising:

15 a member information storage that stores member information of a member, who belongs to a group for exchanging mail;

a mail receiver that receives participation mail, including member information of a member, who newly joins in the group, from a mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member via said communications network;

20 a member information adder that extracts the member information included in the received mail and stores the extracted member information in a member list stored in the member information storage; and

25 a mail transmitter that transmits new member mail including the member information of the newly joining member to terminal devices of other existing members according to the list stored in the member information storage via said communications network.

11. A mail exchange terminal device for exchanging mail with other mail exchange terminal devices via a communications network, comprising:

an invitation mail receiver that receives invite mail for inviting participation in a group for exchanging mail that is already formed by a user of a specific mail exchange terminal device via said communications network;

5 a mail transmitter that transmits participation mail, including self-member information of a newly joining member, to the specific mail exchange terminal device via said communications network at the time of joining the group in response to participation invited by the received invite mail;

10 an existing member information mail receiver that receives contact mail including member information of other existing members, which is transmitted from the mail exchange terminal devices of other existing members via said communications network in response to the participation mail transmitted to said mail exchange terminal device of the specific member; and

15 a member information generator that generates in a member information storage a member list that stores member information of a member, who belongs to the group, based on the received invite mail and the received contact mail.

12. A mail exchange terminal device for exchanging mail with other mail exchange terminal devices via a communications network, comprising:

a member information storage that stores member information of a member, who belongs to a group for exchanging mail;

20 a mail transmitter that transmits mail to a mail exchange terminal device of another member, who belongs to the group, via said communications network according to the member information stored in said member information storage;

25 a withdrawal mail transmitter that transmits withdrawal mail including information of withdrawal from the group to mail exchange terminal devices of all other members listed in the stored member information via said communications network;

a withdrawal mail receiver that receives withdrawal mail, including information, which indicates that another member is withdrawing from the group, from another mail

exchange terminal device via said communications network; and

a member information deleter that deletes member information of the other member corresponding to the mail received by said withdrawal mail receiver, from said member information storage.

5 13. A mail exchange terminal device for exchanging mail with other mail exchange terminal devices via a communications network, comprising a memory that stores a program and data, a processor that executes said program, and a communications device that communicates with other mail exchange terminal devices, wherein said program stored in memory causes said processor to execute:

10 storing member information of existing members, who belong to a group for exchanging mail, in said memory in advance;

causing said communications device to receive a contact mail including member information of a member, who newly joins the group, from another mail exchange terminal device via the communications network;

15 extracting the member information included in the received contact mail and storing the extracted member information to said memory; and

causing said communications device to transmit invite mail including self-member information to said mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member via said communications network.

20 14. A mail exchange terminal device for exchanging mail with other mail exchange terminal devices via a communications network, comprising a memory that stores a program and data, a processor that executes said program, and a communications device that communicates with other mail exchange terminal devices, wherein said program stored in memory causes said processor to execute:

25 storing member information of existing members, who belong to a group for exchanging mail, in said memory in advance;

causing said communications device to receive a contact mail, including member

information of a member who newly joins the group, from a mail exchange terminal device of a newly joining member via said communications network;

extracting the member information included in the received contact mail and storing the extracted member information to said memory; and

5 causing said communications device to transmit new member mail, including the member information of the newly joining member, to said mail exchange terminal device of the existing member via said communications network.

15. A mail exchange terminal device for exchanging mail with other mail exchange terminal devices via a communications network, comprising a memory that
10 stores a program and data, a processor that executes said program, and a communications device that communicates with other mail exchange terminal devices, wherein said program stored in memory causes said processor to execute:

causing the communications device to receive an invitation mail inviting participation in a group, which is already formed by users of other mail exchange
15 terminal devices, from a mail exchange terminal device of a specific member via said communications network;

causing the communications device to transmit participation mail, including self-member information of a newly joining member, to the mail exchange terminal device of the specific member via the communications network at the time of joining
20 the group where participation was invited by the received invitation mail;

causing the communications device to receive contact mail, which is transmitted from the mail exchange terminal devices of other existing members via said communications network in response to the mail transmitted to said mail exchange terminal device of the specific member, and includes member information of an existing
25 member; and

storing member information of members, who belongs to the group, in said memory based on the received invitation mail and the received contact mail.

16. A mail exchange terminal device for exchanging mail with other mail exchange terminal devices via a communications network, comprising a memory that stores a program and data, a processor that executes said program, and a communications device that communicates with other mail exchange terminal devices, wherein said program stored in memory causes said processor to execute:

storing member information of existing members, who belong to a group where mail is exchanged, in said memory in advance;

transmitting mail to mail exchange terminal devices of other members who belong to the group, via said communications network according to the stored member information;

causing said communications device to transmit a withdrawal mail including information of withdrawal from the group to the mail exchange terminal devices of all other members according to the stored member information via said communications network;

causing said communications device to receive the withdrawal mail, including information, indicating that another member is withdrawing from the group, from another mail exchange terminal device via said communications network; and

deleting member information of the withdrawal member from said memory.

17. A method for exchanging mail among terminal devices connected to one another via a communications network, each terminal device having a member information storage that stores member information of members who belong to a group for exchanging mail, comprising:

transmitting participation mail, including member information of a member who newly joins the group, to a terminal device of a specific member from said terminal device of the newly joining member via said communications network;

receiving the participation mail at the terminal device of the specific member;

extracting the member information of the newly joining member from the received

participation mail at said terminal device of the specific member and storing the extracted member information to said memory;

transmitting new member mail, including the member information of the newly joining member, to terminal devices of other existing members from said terminal
5 device of the specific member via said communications network according to the member information stored in said memory of said terminal device of the specific member;

receiving the new member mail at said terminal devices of the other existing members;

10 extracting the member information of the newly joining member from the new member mail received from said terminal devices of the specific member at said terminal device of the other existing members and storing the extracted member information in said memory;

transmitting contact mail including the members information of the existing
15 member to said terminal devices of the new members from said terminal device of the existing member via said communications network;

receiving the contact mail at said terminal device of the new member; and

extracting the member information of the existing members from the received contact mail at said terminal device of the new member and storing the extracted
20 member information in said memory.

18. The mail exchange method according to claim 17, further comprising transmitting withdrawal mail including information, indicating that a member corresponding to a terminal device is withdrawing from the group, to all other terminal devices from the withdrawing terminal device according to the stored member
25 information;

wherein the withdrawal mail is received at each of the other terminal devices; and

wherein the member information corresponding to the received withdrawal mail is

deleted from said member information storage at each of the other terminal devices.

19. A computer-readable storage medium on which a program to be executed by each mail exchange terminal is recorded to exchange mail among a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices connected to one another via a communications network,

5 said program causing a computer to execute:

storing member information of existing members, who belong to a group for exchanging mail, in said memory in advance;

causing said communications device to receive a contact mail including member information of a member, who newly joins the group, from another mail exchange

10 terminal device via the communications network;

extracting the member information included in the received contact mail and storing the extracted member information to said memory; and

causing said communications device to transmit invite mail including self-member information to said mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member via said

15 communications network.

20. A computer-readable storage medium on which a program to be executed by each mail exchange terminal is recorded to exchange mail among a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices connected to one another via a communications network, said program causing a computer to execute:

20 storing member information of existing members, who belong to a group for exchanging mail, in said memory in advance;

causing said communications device to receive a contact mail, including member information of a member who newly joins the group, from a mail exchange terminal device of a newly joining member via said communications network;

25 extracting the member information included in the received contact mail and storing the extracted member information to said memory; and

causing said communications device to transmit new member mail including the

member information of the newly joining member to said mail exchange terminal device of the existing member stored in said memory via said communications network.

21. A computer-readable storage medium on which a program to be executed by each mail exchange terminal is recorded to exchange mail among a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices connected to one another via a communications network,
5 said program causing a computer to execute:

causing the communications device to receive an invitation mail inviting participation in a group, which is already formed by users of other mail exchange terminal devices, from another mail exchange terminal device of a specific member via
10 said communications network;

causing the communications device to transmit participation mail, including self-member information of a newly joining member, to the mail exchange terminal device of the specific member via the communications network at the time of joining the group where participation was invited by the received invitation mail;

15 causing the communications device to receive contact mail, which is transmitted from the mail exchange terminal devices of other existing members via said communications network in response to the participation mail transmitted to said mail exchange terminal device of the specific member, and includes member information of the other existing members; and

20 storing member information of members, who belongs to the group, in said memory based on the received invitation mail and the received contact mail.

22. A computer-readable storage medium on which a program to be executed by each mail exchange terminal is recorded to exchange mail among mail exchange terminal devices connected to one another via a communications network, said program
25 causing a computer to execute:

storing member information of existing members, who belong to a group for exchanging mail, in said memory in advance;

transmitting mail to mail exchange terminal devices of other members, who belong to the group, via said communications network according to the stored member information;

causing said communications device to transmit a withdrawal mail, including
 5 information of withdrawal from the group, to the mail exchange terminal devices of all other members according to the stored member information via said communications network;

causing said communications device to receive the withdrawal mail, including information indicating that another member is withdrawing from the group, from
 10 another mail exchange terminal device via said communications network; and deleting member information of the withdrawing member from said memory.

23. A carrier wave having a program data signal, executed by each mail exchange terminal to exchange mail among a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices connected to one another via a communications network, which is
 15 superimposed thereon, wherein said program causes a computer to execute:

storing member information of existing members, who belong to a group for exchanging mail in said memory in advance;

causing said communications device to receive a contact mail including member information of a member, who newly joins the group, from another mail exchange
 20 terminal device via the communications network;

extracting the member information included in the received contact mail and storing the extracted member information to said memory; and

causing said communications device to transmit invite mail including self-member information to said mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member via said
 25 communications network.

24. A carrier wave having a program data signal, executed by each mail exchange terminal to exchange mail among a plurality of mail exchange terminal

devices connected to one another via a communications network, which is superimposed thereon, wherein said program causes a computer to execute:

storing member information of existing members, who belong to a group for exchanging mail, in said memory in advance;

5 causing said communications device to receive a contact mail, including member information of a member who newly joins the group, from a mail exchange terminal device of the newly joining member via said communications network;

extracting the member information included in the received contact mail and storing the extracted member information to said memory; and

10 causing said communications device to transmit new member mail, including the member information of the newly joining member, to said mail exchange terminal device of the existing member via said communications network.

25. A carrier wave having a program data signal, executed by each mail exchange terminal to exchange mail among a plurality of mail exchange terminal

15 devices connected to one another via a communications network, which is superimposed thereon, wherein said program causes a computer to execute:

causing the communications device to receive an invitation mail inviting participation in a group, which is already formed by users of other mail exchange terminal devices, from another mail exchange terminal device of a specific member via
20 said communications network;

causing the communications device to transmit participation mail, including self-member information of a newly joining member, to the mail exchange terminal device of the specific member via the communications network at the time of joining the group where participation was invited by the received invitation mail;

25 causing the communications device to receive contact mail, which is transmitted from the mail exchange terminal devices of other existing members via said communications network in response to the participation mail transmitted to said mail

exchange terminal device of the specific member, and includes member information of the other existing members; and

storing member information of members, who belongs to the group, in said memory based on the received invitation mail and the received contact mail.

5 26. A carrier wave having a program data signal, executed by each mail exchange terminal to exchange mail among a plurality of mail exchange terminal devices connected to one another via a communications network, which is superimposed thereon, wherein said program causes a computer to execute:

10 storing member information of existing members, who belong to a group for exchanging mail, in said memory in advance;

transmitting mail to mail exchange terminal devices of other members, who belong to the group, via said communications network according to the stored member information;

15 causing said communications device to transmit a withdrawal mail, including information of withdrawal from the group, to the mail exchange terminal devices of all other members according to the stored member information via said communications network;

20 causing said communications device to receive the withdrawal mail, including information indicating that another member is withdrawing from the group, from another mail exchange terminal device via said communications network; and

deleting member information of the withdrawing member from said memory.